

## **REPORT**

### **NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

March 3-7, 2018

Washington, D.C.

#### **March 3rd:**

As a member of the NACO Transportation Policy Steering Committee, attended the following meetings:

##### **Transportation Resolutions Meeting:**

Three (3) resolutions were offered for the members' consideration and discussion. These were as follows:

Proposed Resolution Urging the Federal Policy Makers to Include Support for Transit Options in Any Upcoming Infrastructure Package and/or List of Expanded Legislative Policies;

Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Amend the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) and Hours of Service Final Rule to Provide an Agriculture Exemption; and,

Support Increased Consideration of Alternative Congestion Mitigation Measures.

All three resolutions were discussed amongst the members and amendments and were proposed for further consideration. The amendments and adoption of these resolutions were deferred to the Business Meeting of the Committee later in the day.

##### **Subcommittee Meeting:**

The Honorable John L. Mica, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives and Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee addressed the members. Mr. Mica also served as the Secretary for the U.S. Department of Transportation during the first term of President Obama and provided the members with his analysis of President Trump's proposed infrastructure policies and initiatives. He also provided the members with his thoughts on the future of transportation and infrastructure from a congressional level.

Mr. Larry Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration gave members an overview of the Administration's priorities in reducing crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses (CMV - Commercial Motor Vehicles). Partnership opportunities were offered to counties and states with respect to regulation, education, enforcement, research and technology but little to no funding. The final speaker was Mr. Anthony Bedell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation who provided the members with an in-depth overview of the President's "Building A Stronger America" infrastructure initiative. He highlighted the Administration's goal of investing \$200 billion in federal funds which will be leveraged by a minimum of \$1.5 trillion through local, state, tribal and private partners. (See enclosed attachment.)



#### Business Meeting:

There were three (3) additional presentations at this meeting. The first speaker was Mr. Robert Mariner, Deputy Director, Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation, U.S. Department of Transportation ("US DOT") and he provided the members with an overview of grant and loan programs within the US DOT. Of particular emphasis was the TIGER program that funds 45-50 infrastructure and transportation projects annually for the last ten (10) years. He noted the potential of congressional earmarks being revived and if this is realized, then the TIGER program will likely be eliminated. Mr. Erik Amend, Manager, Executive Office, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office, Federal Aviation Administration spoke on regulations, policies and procedures that are being contemplated in managing the ever-changing landscape of drones. Mr. Brian Keieriebert, P.E., President of the National Association of County Engineers spoke on the necessity of federal investment towards road and infrastructure rehabilitation, in particular, the repair and replacement of bridges that are over 100 years old.

The final item of the day was final discussion and amendments to the three (3) resolutions detailed above. All three were unanimously approved by the committee.

#### **March 4th:**

##### Large Urban Caucus Meeting:

As a member of the Large Urban Caucus, attended this session which was essentially an overview on how local decision-makers can look beyond simple indicators to measure the true economic well-being of their communities and help drive policies and partnerships that foster inclusive urban growth and development. These overviews were offered by Courtney Snowden, Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity, Washington, D.C., Michael Thurmond, Chief Executive Officer, DeKalb County, Georgia, and Kathryn Barber, Supervisor, Los Angeles County, California. Kathleen McDonald Fox, Acting Deputy Administrator, Protection and National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management ("FEMA") provided an outline of FEMA's preparedness-related initiatives and programs. In particular, Ms. McDonald Fox described how FEMA could effectively partner with local jurisdictions to prepare urban areas for natural and man-made disasters. The final speaker was Mr. Chris Mitton, Government Affairs Officer, Office of Secretary Elaine Chao, US DOT, who spoke exclusively on the Administration's Infrastructure Plan ("Building A Stronger America.")

Session: Strengthening Counties' Resilience by Addressing the Public Health Impacts of Natural Disasters

This was a panel discussion of how past disasters were responded to and the changes that were subsequently introduced. Perspectives were offered from Ramsey County, Minnesota, Sonoma County, California, Oklahoma City-County, Oklahoma, and Harris County, Texas.

Veterans and Military Affairs Committee:

While not a member of this committee, attended this session to learn about how the opioid crisis was impacting our veterans. Of interest was a presentation of the use and effectiveness of Veterans Treatment Courts in treating veterans that are addicted to opioids, in particular, homeless veterans. The essential and key element to this program is the partnership and close coordination of counties, law enforcement and the justice system in working with opioid addicted veterans. It was reported that 20 veterans commit suicide on a daily basis, 16 of which never seek services from the Veterans' Administration.

March 5th:

General Session:

The general session featured Elaine Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation and David Shulkin, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Chao provided a detailed overview of President Trump's American Infrastructure Initiative, entitled, "Building a Stronger America." A synopsis of her overview is provided in the attachment to this report. Secretary Shulkin outlined the major initiatives of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as detailed in its 2018-2024 strategic plan which is primarily focused on streamlining and improving services to our nation's veterans which are estimated at just below 20 million. In general, its five priorities, as detailed by Secretary Shulkin, are as follows: Greater Choice; Improve Timeliness; Suicide Prevention; Focus Resources; and, Modernize Systems.

Session: Outlook for Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Counties

NACO staff offered an analysis and overview of the top issues facing counties, including health care, entitlement reform, transportation and infrastructure, public lands management and environmental regulations. This overview focused on both the Administration's and Congress's most recent policies and political orientations.

Session: Tweeting the System: Social Media Dos and Don'ts with Congress

While I am not a “social media person,” attended this session out of curiosity given the President’s penchant for “tweeting.” Surprisingly, this session, led by Mr. Brad Fitch, CEO of CMF, gave examples of how Congress is using social media to communicate its members’ views. Additionally, examples of how simple social media methods can be used to enhance advocacy influence, staff utilization of social media content to communicate platforms to policy staff and legislators, and strategies for getting the attention of congressional members were also presented.

#### Session: Designing and Financing “Smart” Infrastructure

Examples of how counties can invest in future facing “smart” technologies and leverage all available financing options were discussed. Of particular interest was US DOT’s TIFIA application which provides loan funds at below market interest rates to finance major infrastructure projects (which includes rail.). Despite the significance and amount of loan funds available, only a handful of programs nationwide have taken advantage of this program primarily due to lower financing options in the private market.

#### March 6th:

##### Session: How to Save Your County Money without Wasting Valuable Time

Session offered insights on how counties can manage its resources more effectively and efficiently through the public procurement process. An emphasis towards cooperative purchasing, in which multiple counties participate, was discussed. As to whether this could be realized for Honolulu has to be researched further given the state procurement laws.

#### General Session:

The general session featured Brock Long, Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R) from South Carolina, U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D) of New Jersey, Stan McChrystal, former Commander of U.S. and International Forces in Afghanistan, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilber Ross. Each of the federal administrators provided an overview of their agency’s priorities and the two U.S. Senators provided their perspectives of the debate on the federal budget, health care and immigration issues. However, it was Commander McChrystal who detailed the mission in Afghanistan that was the most enlightening portion of the general session given his direct involvement.

#### Session: Homelessness/Affordable Housing

This session provided examples of successful local, state, and federal initiatives on programs that were focused on breaking the cycles of poverty. Programs ranging from childhood development, workforce training and reintegration, community

health care/centers and facilitation and financing of affordable housing were discussed. Nothing dissimilar from what is being discussed in our state and county.

NACO Hill Briefing on Infrastructure

Convened by the NACO Transportation Steering Committee in Room 1324, Longworth Office Building, this briefing was another overview of the Administration's Building a Stronger America – Infrastructure Initiative. Summaries of these initiatives were provided by NACO and congressional senior staff. The enclosed attachments provide a synopsis of the briefing.

Enclosures

City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

# CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 03/09/18

Traveler: Chairmen Emeritus Ernest Y. Martin

Event: 2018 NACo Legislative Conference

Location: Washington D.C.

Dates: From 03/03/18

To 03/07/18

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		Already paid with Pcard
2. Airfare	881.00 ✓	
3. Hotel	1437.20 ✓	
4. Meals	<del>195.21</del> 183.60 ✓	
5. Ground Transportation	103.43 ✓	
6. Tips	16.00 ✓	
7. Other	108.00 ✓	Airport Parking - Daniel K Inouye International Airport
Other	25.00 ✓	Baggage Fee - Delta
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	<del>2765.84</del> 2754.23	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:

Signature of Traveler

Date

03/12/18